

THE URBAN DISTRICT OF KIRKHAM

Library



ANNUAL REPORT
ON THE
PUBLIC HEALTH, 1965

J. E. MORRIS, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H., D.I.H.
Medical Officer of Health

D. G. RELPH, A.R.I.C.S., M.A.P.H.I.
Public Health Inspector and Surveyor

T h e U r b a n D i s t r i c t o f K i r k h a m

A N N U A L H E A L T H R E P O R T

for the Year 1965

Medical Officer of Health:

J. E. Morris, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H., D.I.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

E. A. R. Berkley, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector:

D. G. Relph, A.R.I.C.S., M.A.P.H.I.

ANNUAL HEALTH REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the Year 1965

To the Chairman and Members of the

Kirkham Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1965:

In August Dr. C. Robertson Wilson retired from the position of Medical Officer of Health to the Urban District and I then took up my appointment. I would like to thank the Council and the Officers for the warm welcome accorded to me when I took up my new duties.

The health of the Urban District remained satisfactory during the year as an examination of the vital statistics will show.

Yours faithfully,

J. E. MORRIS,

Medical Officer of Health.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	940
Home Population	6,100
(at the 1961 census the population was 4,811. The estimated mid-year home population in 1965 was 6,020).	
Number of inhabited houses at 31/12/65	1,796
Rateable value at 31/12/65	£180,250
Amount produced by a penny rate	£718

VITAL STATISTICS

Births - 118 live births (62 males and 56 females) were registered during the year. The birth rate of 19.8 per 1,000 compared with a rate of 19.4 per 1,000 in 1964.

Stillbirths - There were three stillbirths during the year making a stillbirth rate of 25.2 per 1,000 total live and stillbirths compared with a rate of 17.9 in 1964.

The total number of live and stillbirths during the year was 119.

Deaths - 62 deaths (34 males and 28 females) were registered during the year. The death rate of 12.1 per 1,000 compared with a death rate of 17.4 per 1,000 in 1964.

Infantile Mortality - 3 deaths of infants under one year of age occurred compared with 2 in 1964.

The neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births) was 17.2.

The early neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births) was 18.6.

Maternal Mortality (including abortion) - Number of deaths Nil. Rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths was Nil.

CAUSES OF DEATH

The table below shows the causes of death of Urban District residents in 1965.

Cause of Death	M.	F.	T.
Diabetes	-	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	3	-	3
Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms	2	1	3
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	3	7	10
Coronary Disease, Angina	6	7	13
Hypertension with Heart Disease	1	-	1
Other Heart Disease	7	3	10
Other Circulatory Disease	1	-	1
Bronchitis	2	-	2
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	5	8	13
Motor Vehicle Accidents	-	1	1
All other Accidents	1	-	1
Ulcer of Stomach & Duodenum	1	-	1
Gastritis, Enteritis & Diarrhoea	1	-	1
Congenital Malformations	1	-	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	34	28	62
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

The table below shows the comparisons between birth and death rates in England and Wales and this district for the past five years:

Year	England & Wales		Kirkham Urban District	
	Births	Deaths	Births	Deaths
1961	17.4	12.0	14.7	12.9
1962	18.0	11.9	15.7	12.2
1963	18.2	12.2	18.2	13.2
1964	18.4	11.3	19.4	17.4
1965	18.1	11.5	19.8	12.1

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES

Personnel:-

Medical Officer of Health:

J. E. MORRIS, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H., D.I.H.

Other appointments held: Medical Officer of Health Boroughs of Lytham St. Annes and Fleetwood, Urban Districts of Poulton-le-Fylde, Preesall and Thornton Cleveleys, and Fylde Rural District, Divisional Medical Officer of Health, Health Division No. 3, Lancashire County Council.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

E. A. R. BERKLEY, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Public Health Inspector:

D. G. RELPH, A.R.I.C.S., M.A.P.H.I.,

Other appointments held: Surveyor, Building Inspector and Housing Manager with Kirkham U.D.C.

Hospital Facilities - For general cases the main hospitals used are the Preston Royal Infirmary of the Preston and Chorley Hospital Management Committee and the Blackpool Victoria, Wesham Park and Lytham St. Annes Hospitals of the Blackpool and Fylde Hospital Management Committee. Infectious diseases cases are admitted to the Devonshire Road Hospital, Blackpool, excepting in the cases of Tuberculosis and Smallpox. Main provision for cases of Tuberculosis is at Elswick Sanatorium. Accommodation for Smallpox is provided by the Manchester Regional Hospital Board at the Ainsworth Smallpox Hospital, near Bury.

Ambulance Facilities - The Ambulance Service is administered by the Lancashire County Council. The needs of the district are met by vehicles operating through the County's radio scheme.

Laboratory Facilities - Bacteriological examinations of specimens are carried out in the Public Health Laboratories attached to Preston Royal Infirmary.

Professional Nursing in the Home - General nursing cases and confinements are attended by District Nurses and Midwives of the Lancashire County Council.

School Medical and Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics - A County Council Clinic is located in Moor Street and sessions held at the time of preparation of this report, are as follows:

Monday, a.m. - Minor Ailments Clinic.

Monday, a.m. and p.m. - Dental Clinic.

Tuesday, a.m. - Speech Therapy.

Tuesday, p.m. - Audiometric (alternate Tuesdays).

Wednesday, a.m. and p.m. - Chiropody.

Wednesday, a.m. and p.m. - Dental Clinic.

Thursday, a.m. - Immunisations (third and fourth Thursdays
in each month).

Thursday, a.m. - Minor Ailments.

Thursday, a.m. - Smallpox Vaccination (second Thursday in
each month).

Thursday, p.m. - Child Welfare Clinic.

Friday, p.m. - Ante Natal (alternate Fridays).

Friday, a.m. and p.m. - Dental Clinic.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table shows the number of diseases other than tuberculosis notified during the year 1965.

Diseases	Total Cases Notified											
	Total Cases at all ages	Under 1 year	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	25-	45-	65 and over
Scarlet Fever	3			1	1	1						
Whooping Cough												
Acute Poliomyelitis:- Paralytic.												
" Non-Paralytic.												
Measles (excluding Rubella)	15	2	4	3	1	4	1					
Diphtheria												
Dysentery	7	1		1			4			1		
Meningococcal Infection												
Ophthalmia Neonatorum												
Acute Pneumonia (Prim. and Infl.)												
Smallpox												
Acute Encephalitis - Infective												
" Post-Infectious												
Enteric or Typhoid Fever												
Paratyphoid Fevers	3	2							1			
Erysipelas												
Food Poisoning	2	2										
Puerperal Pyrexia												
Other notifiable diseases												
TOTAL	30	7	4	5	2	5	5	-	1	1	-	-

TUBERCULOSIS

A tuberculosis service is provided in its various aspects by the Regional Hospital Board, the Lancashire County Council and District Councils. The Hospital Board is responsible mainly for treatment, the County Council for prevention, care and after care, and the Sanitary Authority also for prevention. A Tuberculosis Health Visitor is provided by the Lancashire County Council and the Hospital and Chest Clinic facilities by the Blackpool and Fylde Hospital Management Committee.

New Cases and Mortality during 1965

Age Periods	- New Cases -				- Deaths -			
	Non		Non		Non		Non	
	Pulmon'y	Pulmon'y	Pulmon'y	Pulmon'y	Pulmon'y	Pulmon'y	Pulmon'y	Pulmon'y
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0 - 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 - 15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 - 25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
		2	0	0	0	0	0	0

In 1964 there were two new cases notified, and no deaths reported from the disease.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee,
Kirkham Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my first annual report.

ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE OF THE DISTRICT

Sewers and Sewerage System - The sewage, in conjunction with that from Wesham, runs into tanks at Newton and then into the River Ribble. The sewage disposal works consists of two detritus tanks, six settling tanks and fourteen sludge beds. These were constructed in 1941.

The responsibility for the main sewer and sewage works is held by the Kirkham and Wesham Joint Sewerage Committee.

Thirty-five new houses were connected to the sewerage system during the year.

Rivers and Streams - One main stream - Wrongway Brook - runs through the district, entering from the Fylde Rural District in a culvert under the railway and discharging into Carr Brook and finally into Dow Brook. This stream forms a portion of the Urban District boundary on the easterly side of the town, and provides most of the natural drainage for the district.

A second stream, commencing at the Bye-Pass end of Orders Lane, runs down Orders Lane, under Poulton Street and Mill Street in a brick culvert and discharges into Carr Brook at the north-easterly corner of the Flax Mill land.

Water Supply - Water is supplied by the Fylde Water Board and is derived from upland surface sources at Grizedale and Higher Hodder. The water supply is of good quality and is adequate in quantity. All houses have supplies available from this source and all have piped supplies available within the house, none being supplied by stand pipes. Fluoride is present in the water supply to the extent of 0.1 parts per million.

INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

Complaints - Over 500 complaints were received during the year many of these being from Council house tenants regarding repairs and defects. 620 visits were made in connection with this work.

Statutory Nuisances discovered numbered 169 of which 149 of these were abated the remaining 20 being carried forward to next year.

No statutory formal notices were served since satisfaction in most cases is assured by informal consultations with the landlords concerned. Coercion is threatened only as a last resort.

HOUSING IMPROVEMENTS

More use should be taken of the Standard Grant provisions of the 1961 and 1964 Housing Acts. 13 applications for grants were received during the year and 11 of these were approved by the Council.

Many older houses in the town could well provide good accommodation for some further years if modern amenities such as baths hot water and internal water closets were provided.

It is felt that more effective means of publicising the grant provisions could be undertaken. The Council do not undertake the compulsory improvement of dwellings on an area basis although powers to do so are provided by the Acts. A Selected Pilot scheme in the near future could give a useful indication here.

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS

Two caravan sites were in use during 1965 and some 30 caravans were from time to time occupied. The site at Carr Hill has since been vacated and no further use in this connection will be made.

DISINFESTATIONS

Infestations by parasitical vermin has greatly declined since the advent of D.D.T. and higher standards of living. However there are still houses in the town which require treatment from time to time, these houses often, but not always are inhabited by aged persons. The Council undertake to spray free of charge houses where infestations are discovered. One such private dwelling was treated during the year for infestation by bed bugs. Free issues of D.D.T. powder are available at the Council Offices. Infestations by Ants are not uncommon and often occur in better class properties. A residual laquer aerosol has proved most effective in some cases.

DISINFECTION AND INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Properties were visited in connection with infectious diseases and disinfection carried out where necessary. A vacuum steam sterilizer is available at Wesham Park Hospital and Devonshire Road Hospital Blackpool for treatment of affected bedding and clothing.

Seven cases of Dysentery occurred in the town during the year and in these cases faecal sampling was undertaken by the Department and continued until negative results were achieved. Unwashed or improperly washed hands following bowel functions can be the means of disseminating these organisms and in infected households this point is always stressed.

CLEAN AIR ACT

Smoke nuisances from industrial chimneys occur from time to time in the town although none are considered serious enough to warrant legal action. Very few complaints are received by the Department in this respect but observations are taken on occasions and consultations have taken place with the boilermen and management. Kirkham adds its full quota of pollution from private dwellings to the atmosphere the effluents being much greater in volume than the industrial effluent.

The town is fortunate in being surrounded by a green belt and being some-what isolated from the great conurbations of Lancashire, thus more effective dispersal and dilution with the atmosphere is achieved; however "lung level" smoke from domestic dwellings particularly bungalows abounds during the winter months and frequent temperature inversions prevent effective dispersal and dilution.

The Clean Air Act has now been with us for ten years and much of the early difficulties with supplies of smokless fuels have been resolved. The possibility of smokless zones in the area must not be permanently shelved if we are resolved to reduce the high incidence of bronchitis.

FOOD AND DRUGS

Visits have been made to food premises under the provisions of the Food Hygiene Regulations. Most foodshops in the town are of a reasonable standard but lack of staff in the Department prevented proper inspection of these premises.

One slaughter house is in operation in the town and is visited each morning for purposes of meat inspection.

Meat Inspection: All meat for human consumption killed in the town is inspected and stamped with the Council's mark as being fit for human consumption. A charge is made for this service. The number of animals killed and inspected during this year has increased by over 100% over last years totals.

Other Foods: The following items of food were inspected, found unfit and surrendered by shopkeepers for destruction.

22 lbs. Ham; 4 lbs Halibut.

Carcases inspected and condemned were as follows:-

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	554	-	-	1,869	905
Number inspected	554	-	-	1,869*	905
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	105	-	-	62	45
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	18.95%	-	-	3.32%	4.97%
Tuberculosis only:					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	10
Percentage of number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	1.1%
Cysticercosis:					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	2	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	2	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

Milk Supply and Distribution - There is one large dairy and pasteurising plant in the town supplying milk to surrounding districts. The supervision of this plant is done by the Lancashire County Council. The number of registered distributors is as follows:-

Dairies in the district 8

Shops in the district other than dairies 5

No complaints were received in regard to the milk supply. Only "specially designated" milk (that is, pasteurised, sterilised or Tuberculin tested milk) can now be sold in Kirkham under the provisions of The Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) (No.2) Order, 1955, which came into force on the 6th December, 1955.

MILK SAMPLING

Samples of milk taken during the year revealed a positive result in the case of *Brucella Abortus*. This is the organism causing undulant fever in man. The cow carrying the organism was slaughtered.

ICE CREAM

Some 33 premises are registered with the Council for sale and storage of Ice Cream. These have been inspected from time to time and found satisfactory. One such premise is registered as a manufacturer of Ice Cream.

MEAT PRODUCTS

Four premises are registered with the Council for the manufacture of made-up meat products. Since ice cream and partly cooked meat products are particularly viable and highly susceptible to contamination these premises require constant supervision and inspection in order to maintain a high standard of hygiene. Again lack of properly qualified staff prevented this being carried out.

Food sampling by the County Council - A total of 44 samples was obtained, consisting of 34 samples of milk and 10 others comprising:-

- 1 pkt Pan cake yorkshire pudding mixture
- 1 Cream chesse with strawberrys
- 1 tin Zinc and castor oil cream
- 1 tin Pork Luncheon meat
- 1 Cooling powder
- 1 pkt Tapioca
- 1 tin Rice pudding
- 1 pkt Dripping
- 1 pkt Pastry mix
- 1 pkt Nardil tablets

HOUSE AND TRADE REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

The Council undertake the collection and disposal of household and certain trade refuse in the Area.

Trade refuse from the shops mainly in the form of waste paper and packings is collected weekly on a separate basis.

Disposal of the refuse is by controlled tipping, two sites in the Area namely Coronation Road and Carr Lane. During the year the use of Carr Lane as a tip was discontinued in order that a better standard of control could be achieved and also to reclaim the Coronation Road site in the minimum time. Land is being reclaimed for agricultural use and for the provision of playing fields.

The old destructor has proved to be unserviceable and was scrapped during the year.

The fore and aft tipper used for refuse collection will be replaced during 1966 by a new model with increased capacity this will reduce the number of journeys to the tip in order to discharge. It is envisaged that with the new vehicle in service a weekly collection can be provided and maintained.

The number of men engaged on the work is as follows:-

1 Driver	}	Full-time
5 Loaders		
1 Salvage Baler		
2 Salvage Collectors	}	Part-time
1 Tractor Driver		

All waste paper is sold under contract to Thames Board Mills Ltd., after being baled at the Council Depot.

The total ~~income~~ from salvage during the year was £737 Os. 6d.

The provision of a new baler during 1966 could increase salvage collection to over £1,000 Os. Od. a year provided a satisfactory volume of paper is available.

The total tonnage salvaged was as follows:-

	Tons	Cwts.	Qtrs.	Lbs.
Waste Paper (all grades)	79	10	3	11
Rags	3	4	-	-
Cast Iron, Scrap Metal, etc.	1	3	-	-
	<u>83</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>11</u>

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT

Three premises are registered under the above Act. The amount of this material used is very small.

No samples were taken during the year.

OFFICES AND SHOPS ACT 1963

Most premises within the town have submitted the required preliminary registration but no inspections were made due to lack of properly qualified staff.

RODENT CONTROL

Twenty-nine properties including business premises were treated during the year for infestation by Rats and Mice. One workman is employed on a part-time basis as a Rodent Operative and has had Ministry Training in modern methods of control.

PETROLEUM ACTS

Sixteen premises are licensed to store petroleum and one to store cellulose. In all cases the storage tanks are situated underground. The total storage capacity is 35,600 gallons.

HOUSING

Number of houses on Rate Books	1,796
Number of new houses erected during year:	
(a) By the Local Authority	12
(b) By other bodies or persons	25
Number of houses closed during the year	15
Number of persons displaced	16
Number of discretionary grant applications received during the year	2
Number of discretionary grant approvals during the year	0
Number of standard grant applications received during the year	15
Number of standard grants approved during the year	11
Number of standard grants completed during the year	19

HOUSING CLEARANCE

The current list of houses envisaged for slum clearance does not truly reflect the conditions prevailing in the Area and opportunity will be taken in 1966 to amend the list accordingly. There is much still to be done in this field but enthusiasm must unfortunately be tempered by economic factors.

The desirability of greater use being made of standard grants has already been discussed elsewhere in this report.

FACTORY ACT 1961

There are 39 factories registered with the Council. Some provisions of the Act are administered by this Department and visits have been made from time to time.

NOISE ABATEMENT ACT 1960

There was one complaint of noise during the year. This was dealt with informally and without recourse to legal action.

GENERAL

The many duties of the Department and the shortage of staff prevented the proper attention being given to the maintenance of the Council's own houses, however the appointment of a Building Inspector was a step in the right direction. Other duties undertaken by the Department include the maintenance and cleansing of highways, the inspection of all buildings under construction, maintenance of the fabric of the public baths and the upkeep of the recreation ground and other public spaces.

STAFF

During the year Mr. N. Swift left the Department to take up a new appointment with the Lancashire River Authority after over twenty years service with the Council. I would express my thanks to him for the great help he gave me and that of the Council for his long and useful service.

My thanks also to the other members of the Staff, to the Foreman and all Workmen for their excellent and willing co-operation.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

D. G. RELPH.

